

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 L-03 MC-02 /056 W

----- 128195

R 160830Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

SECSTATE WASHDC 3667

INFO USCINCEUR//ECJ4/7//

DA WASHDC//DALO-ILZ//DAEN-MCC-G//

CDR MICOM REDSTONE ARS AL//AMCPM-KMS//

DIVENGR USAEDM LEGHORN ITALY

CDR AMC ALEX VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: IHAWK CONSTRUCTION

REF: A. DA 271425Z AUG 75 (NOTAL)

B. SECDEF 4622/041918Z SEP 75 (NOTAL)

1. I AM WILLING TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONVINCE MINDEF THAT CONSTRUCTION BY ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IS BEST COURSE OF ACTION FOR GOK. HOWEVER, BELIEVE WE MUST PROVIDE MORE CONVINCING ARGUMENTS THAN THOSE CONTAINED REFTELS (A) AND (B).

2. NO ONE HERE QUESTIONS THE CAPABILITY OF COE TO DO QUALITY WORK. AT SAME TIME, I CANNOT SIMPLY TELL MINDEF THAT ASST MINDEF FOR CONSTRUCTION IS INCAPABLE OF PERFORMING AT LEAST ACCEPTABLE WORK. RATIONALE PROVIDED REFTEL B THAT LOGIC AND PRUDENCE DICTATE THAT COE SERVE AS BOTH DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION AGENT SINCE TOTAL INTEGRATION IHAWK WILL BE RESPONSIBILITY DOD IS CONVINCING TO ME BUT PROBABLY NOT CREDITBLE TO GOK, AT LEAST AT PRESENT TIME.

3. MINDEF IS AWARE THAT, TEN MONTHS AFTER SIGNING FOR MAJOR
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EQUIPMENT, NO OVER-ALL PROGRAM PLAN HAS BEEN PRESENTED, REMAINING

NECESSARY HARDWARE HAS NOT YET BEEN DEFINED AND TRAINING PROGRAM HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A SLUGGISH START. UNTIL WE CAN PUT ALL THE PIECES BEFORE HIM, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ARGUE CONVINCINGLY THE IMPORTANCE OF COE ROLE IN OVER-ALL INTEGRATION IHAWK PROGRAM. EVEN THEN, I AM NOT CERTAIN I AM QUALIFIED TO MAKE MOST EFFECTIVE CASE OUR VIEWS.

4. I WILL ASK MINDEF TO DEFER DECISION ON THIS MATTER UNTIL AFTER PLANNED VISIT DA PROGRAM MANAGER IN MID-OCTOBER. I RECOMMEND LATTER BRING WITH HIM ALL PERSONNEL REQUIRED TO MAKE EFFECTIVE AND CONVINCING PRESENTATION TO MINDEF AND KAF OFFICIALS. TEAM MUST SPEAK WITH SINGLE VOICE AND BE PREPARED TO PRESENT COMPELLING

ARGUMENTS THAT PROJECT WILL NOT WORK UNLESS COE IS GIVEN ROLE WE ENVISAGE NECESSARY. MINISTER IS BOTH A PROUD AND RESONABLE MAN. HE WILL ACCEPT FIRM EVIDENCE THAT HIS OWN PEOPLE ARE INCAPABLE OF DOING COMPLEX JOB. HE WILL NOT ACCEPT SUGGESTION THAT THEY ARE INCAPABLE OF DOING SIMPLE CONSTRUCTION WORK ACCORDING TO PLANS DRAWN UP BY COE.

5. IN ANY CASE, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT FURTHER PIECE-MEAL DISCUSSION WITH GOK ON IHAWK PROGRAM IS USELESS AND PROBABLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. BEFORE IHAWK TEAM PROPOSED ABOVE COMES TO KUWAIT, WE MUST PRESENT TO GOK REMAINING PIECES IN PACKAGE, INCLUDING AN OVER-ALL PROGRAM AND GIVE LOCAL OFFICIALS ADE-QUATE TIME (TWO WEEKS MINIMUM) TO STUDY OUR PROPOSALS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AGREEMENTS, MILITARY BASES, IHAWK, MISSILES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT03789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750321-0591
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750945/aaaabnkq.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IHAWK CONSTRUCTION
TAGS: MASS, KU, US
To: DOD STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006